Guidelines for ARP Proposal

The following guidelines should be used to structure the substantive proposal students must prepare as part of their application for an Advanced Research Project. This proposal should be in the neighborhood of 5-8 typed pages.

Project Title: A clear, self-explanatory title/subtitle.

Thesis Statement or Research Question: In a single sentence or question, state the central point of your research proposal.

Rationale: Clearly and succinctly explain the importance of conducting the research. What is your topic's relevance? What audience are you writing for and what good will it do them? What plans, if any, do you have for ensuring that your work will have a positive impact? In short, how does it pass the "so what?" test?

Hypotheses: Where will your paper take the reader? What working hypotheses and preliminary conclusions will be guiding your research?

Sources/Bibliography: Review the existing literature on your subject briefly and explain how or to what extent your study will make an original contribution. Also indicate to what extent you will need to rely on personal interviews and how you expect to secure access to the appropriate individuals.

Outline: Provide to the extent possible an outline of the paper as a whole, showing how you plan to organize the material you will be working with and how much relative weight (in terms of page numbers) will be given to its various sections or subsections.

Proposed Methodology: How do you intend to go about your research? How much can you accomplish given the time available and requirements for travel or other resources? Are there difficulties you anticipate in carrying out the research, and if so, how do you intend to deal with them? You do not have to provide a detailed and expensed travel plan, but if travel is central to completion of your project, that should be spelled out. Extensive travel may require additional financial support beyond that provided by the program; if that is the case, explain what outside sources might be tapped to support your project. You should also address potential research needs that might be supported by the Naval War College Library.

Writing Sample: If possible, provide a sample from one of your prior courses at the Naval War College; a sample of published writing would also be preferred.